

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Before the title, delete "Description".

Before paragraph [0001], add the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before paragraph [0004], add the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Amend paragraph [0005] as follows:

[0005] -- [[This]] According to one aspect of the invention, this object is respectively achieved according to the invention by the features of claim 1 or 2 (method) and by the features of claim 8, 9 or 10 (device) a method for detecting a degree of pollution of an operational converter, wherein an operating state of at least one of the converter's components which is exposed to the ambient air of the converter is determined, wherein a corresponding operating state of this component in the unpolluted state is determined, and wherein these two operating states are compared with each other and a comparison value thus determined represents a measure of the degree of pollution of the converter.

According to another aspect of the invention, this object is achieved by a method for detecting a degree of pollution of an operational converter, wherein a surface conductance of one of the converter's parts which is exposed to the ambient air of the converter is determined and compared with a predetermined limit value, the comparison value of which represents a measure of the degree of pollution of the converter.

According to yet another aspect of the invention, this object is achieved by a device for detecting a degree of pollution of an operational converter, having a thermal model for estimating a temperature of a heat sink of the converter and having a temperature sensor for determining a heat sink temperature and having

an evaluation circuit, which is linked on the input side to the thermal model and the temperature sensor.

According to still another aspect of the invention, this object is achieved by a device for detecting a degree of pollution of an operational converter, having a resistor bridge circuit which is linked on the input side to a voltage supply of the converter and whose resistors are dimensioned so that two diagonally opposite resistors change their resistance by heating as a result of operation, whereas the other two maintain their resistance, and the output of which is linked to an evaluation circuit.

According to still another aspect of the invention, this object is achieved by a device for detecting a degree of pollution of an operational converter, having two conductor tracks extending close to each other, wherein one is provided with a discharge resistor, wherein the other conductor track is linked to a voltage supply of the converter, and wherein a voltage follower is electrically connected in parallel with the discharge resistor. --.

Before paragraph [0017], add the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before paragraph [0023], add the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 10, after the heading "PATENT CLAIMS" and before the first claim insert --What is claimed is:--.

The Abstract has been amended as per enclosed separate sheet. A clean copy of the Abstract is also submitted per separate sheet.